

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 /090 W

----- 023831

R 090640Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6325

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL DHAHARN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

MANAMA 131

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECDEF/ASD/ISA

USCINCEUR

/COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2520

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: YEMENI/SAUDI MILITARY TALKS

REF: SANA 2453

1. ON SEPT 8 CHIEF OF STAFF AND DEPTY COMMANDER IN
CHIEF AHMAD AL-GHASHMI CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR
SAUDI ARABIA AFTER THE RAMADAN HOLIDAYS TO BEGIN DETAILED
TALKS ON SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEMENI ARMED
FORCES. GHASHMI SAID THAT HE AND PRES HAMDY ARE
ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT VISIT OF PRES HAMDY TO SAUDI
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ARABIA AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE SAUDIS WILL COME THROUGH

IN A POSITIVE MANNER.

2. GHASHMI ALSO TOLD ME THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE AND CONCERNED OVER THE LAST MONTH OR SO ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR SAUDI FINANCED AND AMERICAN SUPPLIED MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO YEMEN. GHASHMI STATED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CITING NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND OTHER RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT SOVIET ADVISORS WILL BE REMOVED ONCE AMERICAN EQUIPMENT STARTS ARRIVING. GHASHMI SAID THAT THE SOVIET CHARGE HAS BEEN TRYING VERY HARD TO GET PRES HAMDI TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION. GHASHMI ADDED THAT NEITHER HE NOR HAMDI ARE IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO RID THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES OF SOVIET ADVISORS BUT ONCE THE SAUDIS COMMIT THEMSELVES IN SPECIFIC AND TANGIBLE TERMS TO THE MODERNIZATION OF THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES THE SOVIET ADVISORS "WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF".

3. COMMENT: SANA HAS BEEN FILLED FOR THE LAST MONTH OR SO WITH REPORTS OF THE IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF THE SOVIET ADVISORS TO BE ANNOUNCED BY PRES HAMDI ON SEPT 26. WHILE I BELIEVE GHASHMI IS SINCERE IN STATING THAT THESE ADVISORS "WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF" ONCE THE SAUDIS COME THROUGH, I BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY AS MIN OF STATE SAID INDICATED RECENTLY (SEE REFTEL) THAT THE YEMENIS WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AND GRADUALLY RATHER THAN EMBARK ON SOME DRAMITIC EXPULSION.
SCOTES

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